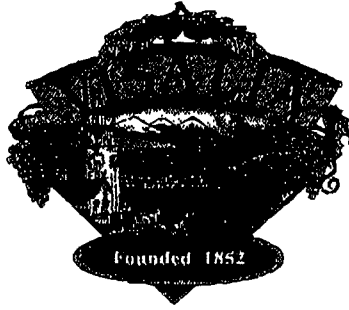


City of Visalia

425 East Oak Avenue, Suite 301, Visalia, CA 93291



Office of the Mayor

Tel: (559) 713-4512 Fax: (559) 713-1800

Jesus J. Gamboa
Mayor

December 15, 2005

Greg Kirkpatrick
Vice Mayor

Greg Collins
Councilmember

Don Landers
Councilmember

Bob Link
Councilmember

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph. D
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 "I" Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Sunne Wright McPeak
Secretary, Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretaries Lloyd and McPeak:

The City of Visalia is submitting this letter to express our serious concerns regarding the proposed Goods Movement Action Plan (GMAP). We strongly request that the list of recommended transportation improvement projects contained in the proposed GMAP be reconsidered and that substantial additional improvement projects be recommended to help alleviate serious deficiencies existing along State Highway 99 through the San Joaquin Valley.

The GMAP, as currently proposed, will recommend approximately \$14.4 billion in transportation-related construction projects to help improve the movement of goods in California. While the GMAP has good intentions, the proposed distribution of funding is illogical and overlooks critical needs in parts of California, in particular, the need to upgrade State Highway 99 through the San Joaquin Valley. As currently structured, the GMAP will allocate only \$330 million (2.2%) of the \$14.4 billion in recommended projects to improvements on State Highway 99. This recommended level for Highway 99 improvements is extremely inadequate. At the same time, the current GMAP project list proposes to send \$12.8 billion to Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The allocation of 89% of GMAP project funding recommendations to a 4 county area is a slap in the face to areas such as the San Joaquin Valley that have transportation needs just as critical as those in Southern California.

Highway 99 is the backbone of California. This route is the major north-south highway transportation corridor for movement of goods and travelers through the San Joaquin Valley to other parts of the State. Numerous cities and industrial centers are located along this route. In addition, Highway 99 provides an important linkage between the major urban



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areas in the Los Angeles/San Diego region, Bay Area/Northern California region, and the Sacramento region. Because of the location of the Valley as the geographical center of California, and the availability of truck transportation along Highway 99 to major urban areas throughout the State, the San Joaquin Valley is experiencing significant growth in manufacturing and distribution warehouse facilities. For example, VF Corporation is now building an 800,000 square foot clothing distribution facility in Visalia that will eventually employ 350 persons.

Due to the affordability of housing, job growth, and our central location, the San Joaquin Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation with regard to population. The State Department of Finance estimates that the 8 counties comprising the South Valley (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare) will increase in population from 3,320,096 residents in the year 2000 to 7,935,054 residents in 2050. During this period, the population of the South Valley will grow from having 9.75% to having 14.49% of the total population in California. This unprecedented population growth will further increase the need for efficient goods movement along the Highway 99 corridor.

You may be aware that our Valley has one of the most serious air pollution problems in the nation. Efficient traffic flow helps greatly in reducing mobile air emissions. Improvements to Highway 99 will not only make the movement of goods more efficient, but will help improve air quality throughout the Valley thereby enhancing the health of our residents.

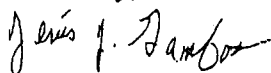
The San Joaquin Valley is the most productive agricultural area in the nation. We are commonly referred to as the "Breadbasket of America". An efficient transportation network is needed to move the billions of dollars of food products that are grown in the Valley to the urbanized areas of the nation and throughout the world.

Recently, the Transportation Work Group of the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley recommended a State commitment of \$6 billion over the next 10 years to provide critical improvements to the Highway 99 transportation corridor. Valley counties all strongly support the State's effort and hope to expedite needed improvements along Highway 99. The GMAP can help provide a significant amount of the recommended \$6 billion in State commitment to fund the critical improvements for Highway 99.

The Goods Movement Action Plan must not overlook the significance of the Highway 99 transportation corridor and should include additional projects along this route to facilitate the movement of goods throughout the State. The City of Visalia strongly recommends that the "Key Improvement Projects" list contained in the GMAP be reconsidered and priority improvement projects identified by the Transportation Work Group for Highway 99 through the San Joaquin Valley be recommended for funding.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please keep us updated on the progress of the GMAP and future opportunities to participate by contacting Mike Olmos, Assistant City Manager, by mail at 315 E. Acequia Avenue, Visalia, CA, or by e-mail at molmos@ci.visalia.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Jesus Gamboa, Mayor
City of Visalia

CC: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
Juan Arambula, Assemblymember, District 31
David Cogdill, Assemblymember, District 25
Bill Maze, Assemblymember, District 34
Michael Villines, Assemblymember, District 29
Greg Aghazarian, Assemblymember, District 26
Barbara Matthews, Assemblymember, District 17
Nicole Parra, Assemblymember, District 30
Visalia City Council
Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager